

The Ranchos Independent



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Happy Fourth of July

The Madera Ranchos Assembly of God Church received an American Flag which was flown over the Headquarters of the Multi-National Corps-Iraq in its honor during Operation Iraqi Freedom on 12/17/2008. They celebrated the flag on June 14, Flag Day, and then raised it again at their July 4th celebration which was held on June 28 at the Madera Ranchos Assembly of God.

Picture Courtesy of Pam Hansen

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Man's Next of Kin Sought by Sheriff

The Madera County Sheriff's Department is searching for relatives of a 67-year old man who passed away on June 16.

Jerry Eugene Smith, whose last known address is listed in Mendota, died suddenly on Tuesday, June 16. According to reports, he was rushed from a trailer located on West Whitesbridge in Mendota and rushed to Madera Community Hospital. The Sheriff's Department has not been able to locate next of kin and is hoping the public can help.

Anyone who may have information is asked to call the Madera County Sheriff's Department at either 559-675-7770 or toll free 1-800-560-4911.



Jerry Eugene Smith, whose last known address was listed in Mendota, died suddenly on Tuesday, June 16 and the Sheriff's Department has not been able to locate his next of kin. Please call 559-675-7770 or 1-800-560-4911 if you can help.

Woman Calls 911 as Stranger Knocks

Jay Ogamba, 29, of Madera remains behind bars facing drug and weapons charges after a 911 call to the Madera County Sheriff's Department about a stranger lurking outside a Madera home.

According to Sergeant Mike Pace, a woman called dispatch at around 2:30 a.m. on June 19 reporting a strange man wearing a "doo-rag" was knocking on her front door. When Pace arrived he saw the man, who was still outside the home, bend over and place something on the home's porch. Upon further investigation, that "something" turned out to be a knife wrapped inside of a pair of white



Madera resident Jay Ogamba was arrested outside a Madera home while the occupant was on the phone with 911. He was later discovered to be carrying a knife and drug paraphernalia.

gloves.

As Pace tried to detain the suspect, Ogamba took off running but was captured within 15 minutes. He then provided deputies with a trio of surnames, including Metcalf, Shane and Sane.

In addition to the knife, Deputies also seized a glass pipe commonly used to smoke Methamphetamine as well as a small canister of Pepper Spray. Ogamba, who is currently on parole for possession of stolen property, according to Madera County Department of Corrections, was transported to Madera County Department of Corrections where he is being held without bail.

First County Homicide Reported

Sheriff John Anderson is calling the deaths of a Madera County couple a murder/suicide.

The bodies of 51-year-old Leslie Gillis and her husband, 61-year-old Gerald Gillis, were discovered by their daughter on the afternoon of June 28. The Sheriff's department was called to the home located on San Bruno Avenue in the Parkwood area which is located just outside Madera City limits.

Dispatch received the call at around 4:44 p.m. Sunday afternoon. Deputies believe (based on information they gathered) at least one shot was heard at

around 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon.

Sheriff John Anderson says Leslie was found inside the home with gunshot wounds and the husband was found outside the home in the front yard with what appeared to be a self inflicted gunshot wound.

Sheriff Anderson says there are no signs at this point to indicate that this was anything other than a tragic domestic case that ended with Gerald shooting and killing his wife and then turning the gun on himself.

This is the first homicide to occur in Madera County this year.

2009 Fire Safe Summer Poster Contest Winners

The 2009 Fire Safe Poster Contest was a great success with over 150 entries submitted from Webster and Sierra View schools. Posters were judged based on creativity and the fire safe message. This year's winners were as follows:

Webster School 4th Grade
1st Place Seth Shevenell
2nd Place Tiffany Herron
3rd Place Rebecca Mendoza

Webster School 3rd Grade
1st Place Jiyun Son
2nd Place Holly Hiatt
3rd Place Sabrina Folsom

Sierra View School 3rd and 4th Grade
1st Place Hailey Parks
2nd Place Graciela Ruiz



Webster School Summer Poster winners were (from left) Tiffany Herron, Jiyun Son, Sabrina Folsom, Smokey Bear, Seth Shevenell, Holly Hiatt and Rebecca Mendoza.

3rd Place Wyatt Harpin

Best in Show Poster
Seth Shevenell

On behalf of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and



Sierra View School Summer Poster contest winners were (from left) Wyatt Harpain, Graciela Ruiz and Hailey Parks, with Smokey Bear keeping a sharp lookout in the rear.

the Madera County Fire Department, we wish to thank all of the participants that entered the contest this year and to our sponsors: The Fresno Grizzlies, Donaghy Sales, LLC, S & J Lumber and the Smokey Bear Race Committee.

**IMPORTANT
READ THIS!**

**A VERY IMPORTANT
INSERT IS IN THIS
ISSUE OF THE
RANCHOS INDEPENDENT**

PG&E is currently considering several alternative routes for a new major transmission line through the Central Valley to its Central Sierra power plants. While each of the options may have some degree of impact to various populated areas, we are most concerned with the alternative (the Northern portion of what they describe as "the Western Route") that would expand the existing PG&E easement along the southerly edge of the Madera Ranchos. Of all the alternatives, this one has the greatest impact on those of us in the Madera Ranchos, which is the largest community affected by any alternative. The alternative proposed through the Madera Ranchos would double the existing easement width to 250 feet, and construct a parallel set of even larger towers carrying larger power lines.

There are many alternatives available to PG&E, some of which we have suggested and illustrated for them, involving no impact to Madera Ranchos. The so-called "Eastern Route" through the Fresno County foothills is several miles shorter than any route through Madera County. We believe that's a significant factor for a facility which will cost hundreds of thousands of dollars per mile to construct. Other Madera County routes, while no shorter than the Madera Ranchos frontage, offer the advantage of not affecting any population centers at all, and additional significant savings with lower land cost for grazing pastures instead of higher cost for urban and prime farm land.

A number of groups are advocating for various routes. More correctly, each is advocating AGAINST the route that affects their interest. There is strong, well-organized opposition to the eastern routes, and it is important that PG&E un-

Please see **PG&E** on P. 13

**IMPORTANT
READ THIS!**



Editorial

Controlling PG&E's Power

By Randy Bailey

I like it when the choice is easy. Now, don't get me wrong. I also enjoy a good mental jousting from time to time; it's the old steel against steel that helps keep you sharp. Nothing wrong with that. But sometimes it sure is nice to have an easy decision where you look at the options in front of you and you say, "Oh yeah ... THIS is a no-brainer!"

From time to time when I play poker with my friends there'll be that hand that I'm just not sure about. I mean, it could go either way. *If* it hits it could be a monster but it could also miss big time. As you're sitting there debating and doing all of the computations in your head, the guy betting before you blurts out, "All in!"

Ahh ... the choice just became easy. As the guy to your right pushes all of his chips out into the center of the table you look at your cards with new, "easy" eyes and actually start to wonder how you could have ever even *considered* playing those dogs.

What was I thinking?

We've got one of those decisions facing us now in the Ranchos.

A no brainer.

A deuce seven off suit in the hole.

Two cups of coffee in front of us

to choose from and one has a fly floating in it.

Get the picture? It's THAT obvious: NO to 500 kilovolt powerlines running through the Ranchos.

In this issue of the Ranchos Independent you are given a rare chance to actually have your voice heard. Tucked away in the folds of this paper you hold in your hands is a pre-stamped, pre-addressed envelope and a very thoughtful form letter waiting for your signature. All you've got to do is sign your name, seal the letter and then drop it in any mailbox and the United States Postal Service will do the rest. Of course, if you want to add some additional thoughts or even re-write the letter in your handwriting to give it a more personal "umph," then by all means do so, it's up to you.

And what are you signing your name to and mailing off via postal carrier? Just a simple letter that says "no" to PG&E turning our community into an ugly conglomeration of high power wires and towers. Drive through some of the communities in Southern California near Long Beach or Irwindale to get a "flavor" for what these behemoths do to a community's personality.

They kill them.

Like your view of the Sierra Nevadas? Try it looking through 500kV powerlines.

The most absurd part of all of this is there is an alternative route that doesn't run through residential property, would be cheaper for PG&E to acquire and would be every bit as effective in delivering the sorely needed power we require.

We just need to let PG&E know about it.

Make no doubt about it, there are other people in other neighborhoods that don't want these powerlines running through their front yards either. What the ultimate question is going to come down to is, who cares more? If they do, then get ready for powerlines with your breakfast coffee. If we make enough noise then maybe ... just maybe ... they'll leave us alone.

To me it's an easy choice. A no-brainer. Fill it out and mail it.

What are you waiting for?

The Ranchos Independent

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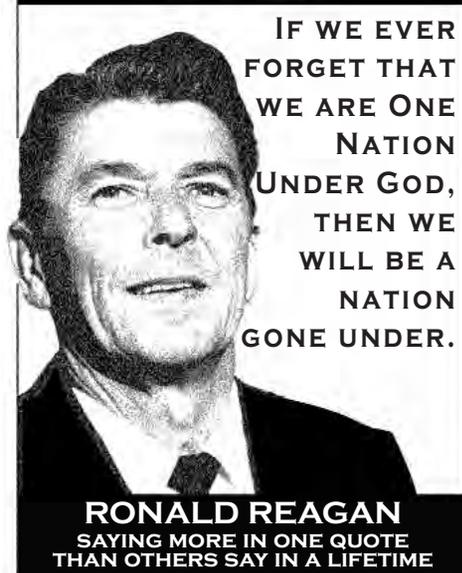
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THE RAY GUN SHOOTING STRAIGHT TO THE HEART



Letters

Dear Editor:

The California District Attorneys Association (CDAA) has urged Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to abandon his Administration's proposal to commute the sentences of criminal aliens in state prisons in order to refer them to Immigration and Customs Enforcement for deportation. Such a policy is not only dangerous to public safety, but would "confer on criminal aliens benefits that are not available to inmates who are citizens of the United States," the prosecutors association said.

In a letter delivered Monday to the Governor and legislative leaders, CDAA cautioned the Governor against the deportation plan. "We believe that all inmates, regardless of their immigration status, should be held to the same level of accountability for their conduct. If you were to exercise your constitutional power to commute the sentences of any portion of the inmate population, we urge you to do so only after there has been an assessment of the risk of each individual for re-offending," the letter stated. "We also strongly believe that it is imperative for public safety to place every inmate whose sentence is commuted for the purpose of early discharge from custody...on summary parole," noting that the sole purpose of such status would be to permit search and seizure of such parolees for a period of no less than three years.

CDAA also took issue with the Administration's proposal to reduce so-called "wobbler" offenses, i.e., crimes that can be charged as either felonies or misdemeanors, to straight misdemeanors, citing a host of unintended consequences that would "subvert prosecutorial efforts in numerous ways."

The letter, signed by San Diego County District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis, outgoing president of CDAA, and Napa County District Attorney Gary Lieberstein, incoming president of CDAA, and endorsed by CDAA's members, noted that crimes such as grand theft, vehicle theft, identity theft and other fraud offenses rob Californians of millions of dollars each year. Eliminating

the ability of prosecutors to charge such "wobbler" offenses as felonies will jeopardize public safety by "blurring the lines between degrees of criminality such that participants in complicated, high-dollar theft rings would be subject to the same punishment as petty thieves."

"Felony crimes carry longer statutes of limitations than misdemeanors. This means that prosecutions of major fraud cases, for example, which are often document driven and take months, if not years, to come together, could be lost," the letter stated. "Also," the letter added, "under existing law, search warrants generally can only be issued in cases involving felonies. This proposal would effectively abolish the use of this vital law enforcement tool..."

While recognizing the historic magnitude of California's current economic crisis and the pressure on the Governor and Legislature to reduce California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation expenditures, CDAA expressed grave concern that some of the proposals advanced thus far create the probability that "our criminal justice system would be irrevocably harmed."

Madera County District Attorney Michael Keitz has voiced his support for CDAA's position: "We cannot allow public safety to be compromised through a blind rush to cut state costs. There are alternatives available to the Governor and legislative leaders that do not sacrifice our obligation to protect the safety of Californians."

The letter concludes by urging the Governor to consider addressing the problem on an emergency basis, which he is empowered to do under the state Constitution. "We believe you should consider a temporary solution that does not restructure our system of justice to the detriment of our citizens."

CDAA represents 57 elected district attorneys, 12 prosecuting city attorneys and more than 2,600 deputy district attorneys, deputy city attorneys and deputy attorneys general statewide.

Michael Keitz
Madera County District Attorney

THE D.O.G. HOUSE
DEMAND OPEN GOVERNMENT BY DALE DROZEN



This D.O.G. stuff has a snowball effect at times. When there are lots of meetings I have lots to write but no time because I am in meetings all the time.

The Water Advisory Commission meeting was interesting – almost exciting. The first big controversy was about items being removed from the agenda by staff. That one took on a life of its own, but I discovered later the items were never put on the agenda because of a strict time limit for submissions.

When it got to the Regional Water Management Group tempers began to flare. One side contended they were being locked out of the process but were told they could show up and would not be barred from entering the room. One of the big things DWR has been stressing is stakeholder involvement and cooperation. We are set to put forward one great example of cooperation as one side begrudgingly lets the other side enter the room.

Ray Beach told the Commission he had direction from the Board of Supervisors to continue with his staff alone making the presentation. Not what I remember from the Board meeting but I guess you should judge for yourselves. It is recorded on the County site.

At this point County Counsel stepped in to take on the roll of school yard monitor. In the end, as I understand it, there was to be a meeting between the various factions in the hopes we wouldn't look like a bunch of squabbling brats. I didn't participate in any of those after-meeting discussions so that left me free to make a trip to Sacramento Tuesday to see how things go and put in my two cents worth.

Is a Constitutional Convention in our future?

I was hearing rumblings about a constitutional convention. On June 26 I attended a summit conference. The movement is real it is gaining momentum and I think it would be a big mistake.

At the beginning of the day we were asked if we thought the government was broken. I think every hand went up, including mine. I have made no secret of the fact I think our government is in trouble. The folks putting on the rally to rewrite the constitution took our answer as a green light to begin the rewrite.

If your house is infested with termites, cockroaches and rats you don't begin by tearing out the solid concrete foundation.

Citizens no longer feel they have a say in how the government is being run. Taxes and fees have reached levels beyond what citizens can continue to pay and still be able to pay for their day-to-day needs as our government costs continue to grow much faster than our incomes, faster than inflation, even faster than the weeds in our yards.

It seems there is no end in sight. Year after year our representatives fail to balance the budgets; year after year we are threatened with cuts to essential services. We have volumes of ridiculous laws on the books wasting our tax dollars long before they can be used to provide promised services. Out of sheer frustration we have turned to the initiative process in a desperate hope to reign in the lunacy. We have mandated set percentages of our taxes to go to specific programs. We have passed initiatives designed to protect us from unreasonable increases in fees (PROP. 218). Initiatives were written to protect us from unreasonable tax increases (PROP. 13). Unfortunately, as time passes the initiatives that saved us have created as many problems and inequities as they solved.

At first glance I thought the idea of "rebooting" the State constitution might be a good idea. As I read, deliberate and discuss the idea of a Constitutional Convention my opinion has changed. It is not only a bad idea; it will not work.

Please see **D.O.G.** on P. 7

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6/09

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The Stock Report

Hooray! Ten Years for GV Schools

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,
Hooray, hooray for Golden Valley Unified School District. Just 10 short years ago Madera Unified turned the keys to Webster Elementary over to the new Golden Valley Unified in an official transfer of property on July 1, 1999. The five-member first school board was given one year by the California State Superintendent to create a school district and operate schools. In 1999 Webster Elementary, Independence High and Camelot High were opened for students. As a part of that first school board I remember hiring the first superintendent (Ed Costa), opening our first storefront district office, hiring the first district staff, passing the first bond, buying property and working with the Madera County Office staff so that we received from Madera Unified the correct share that belonged to Golden Valley Unified in the election.

The teachers at Webster Elementary, which was a K-8 grade school under Madera Unified, had to make the choice of staying with Madera Unified and leaving Webster or giving the new Golden Valley Unified a chance and stay on at Webster. Some teachers chose to leave and some chose to stay and are still with us after 10 years of being Golden Valley. Getting the teachers records from Madera Unified turned out to be a hassle but was finally resolved before Webster Elementary started in August of 1999. At the same time deals were being put together with Clovis Unified to make our bus routes and take care of the buses that we received in the settlement from Madera Unified. Clovis Unified also was willing to provide food for Golden Valley Schools. Bus drivers and custodians had to be hired. A store front was rented as Golden Valley Unified's first high school classrooms. These were named Independence High and Camelot High. These two high schools graduated nine students that first year. The class of 2000 held the graduation ceremony at the Madera Center College which had also just opened. During those first

years the school board members and Superintendent Costa ate, slept and lived Golden Valley Unified 24 hours a day. We were always on call.

My latest project, since I have taken pictures since the beginning, is putting a scrapbook together of Golden Valley's 10 years as a school district. Golden Valley Superintendent Sarah Koligian is also working to put together 10- year recognition of the district as she opens the new Ranchos Middle School.

This last month has been very emotional for me. I have six grandchildren, the youngest of which is Nick Morin who just graduated from Liberty High. Nick started at Webster Elementary and graduated with many of the students with

We have a good school board and a good superintendent to watch the money trail and make sure that we stay in business.

whom he started kindergarten. On June 3, 2009 I attended the Educational Options graduation of 20 students. On June 4, 2009 I attended with my family the graduation of 132

students, including Nick, at Liberty High. It was a beautiful ceremony and the weather behaved for us all. On June 5, 2009 it was time for the 8th grade promotional ceremony of 145 students in the Liberty Gym because the weather was so iffy. In the 10 years that Golden Valley Unified has been in business I have attended all of the graduations and 8th grade promotions. I am so proud of our California Distinguished School District.

So now many of our students are in Summer School. Ranchos Middle School and Liberty High summer school students are at Liberty High from 7:30 to 1:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday from June 9 to July 16. There was also a paid program called the "SEA" program which cost \$200 and was an enrichment program that went from 8 to 11:55 a.m., June 9 to July 2.

All California School Districts have a challenge in the coming year because of the California State budget problems. It will be a tight squeeze but since we started Golden Valley with only a \$60,000 loan from the state when we started this district, I know Golden Valley will survive. We have a good school board and a good superintendent to watch the money trail and make sure that we stay in business.

Something to *Really* Celebrate

By Bob Crabb

One of the most beautiful ideas and forms of literature is our Declaration of Independence written in 1776. Particularly the second Paragraph: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

If we can understand the word "men" today as referring to both men and women regardless of race, creed or affiliation, then this second Paragraph of the Declaration of Independence is a stunning report of good news. For so many in the world who are coming from

a place of inequality and a place where life is conditional and liberty is distressed and the pursuit of happiness is outlawed, these words ring out.

Since that time of 1776, revolutions and revolutionaries have often used these words from our Declaration of Inde-

pendence. Black and white abolitionists used these words to challenge slavery in the United States prior to the civil war. Civil rights supporters rallied behind these words in their fight against racism in the 1950s and 1960s. I understand that these words had a profound impact on the French Revolution in 1789. In the 19th century the principles of these words were adopted by Latin American movements fighting for independence from European colonial powers.

These words have influenced more recent struggles for national identity. The ideas and principals in these words have moved men and women to great acts of valor and courage to establish nations, incite causes and inflame pas-

sions. For many of us in the church, the Body of Christ, I dare say we feel the passion and celebrate the Declaration of Independence.

Like the Declaration of Independence, the church gathered around Jesus Christ holds certain truths to be self evident: The church is the Body of Christ. I find this to be an incredible idea and I can hardly believe or understand it. St. Paul actually made the claim directly, he said: "Now you (the church) are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it," (1 Cor 12:27 NIV).

Paul also made the great proposal of faith that in the participation of Holy Communion that the people of Christ actually participate in the

real presence of Jesus here on earth. It is almost like studying Quantum Mechanics. It is almost too difficult and impossible to understand. Somehow, we are not only the Body of Christ in the world, but somehow we actually participate in Christ's

presence in Holy Communion. Paul said: "Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one bread," (1 Cor 10:16-20 NIV).

Paul made the case that everyone in the church had a role – a job – in the Body of Christ. Paul seemed to think that the church was not just a gathering of people, but that everyone had a role in the community of faith gathered around Jesus. Paul wrote: "The gifts that God gave us were that

In the journey of life, there are many of us who can claim that we were once lost and a stranger to God. But somebody found us, somebody loved us, somebody reached out and said to us when we least deserved it: "I claim you as my family, once you were an enemy, but now I call you friend."

Please see PASTOR on P. 7

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6/09

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Chamber Offering Travel Plans

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce is coordinating TRAVEL TRIPS for Ranchos residents that range from a Kings River whitewater rafting trip on the Fourth of July to a cruise to Alaska next June/July. The trips being offered at present include:

- 1) Oct. 9-11, 2009 Reno charter bus trip to Italian Festival. 3 days/ 2 nights. Ages 10 years and up.
- 2) Feb. or March 2010 Reno Amtrak Snow/Fun Train for 3 days/2 nights. Ages 21 and over.
- 3) June/ July 2010 10 day Alaska Cruise on Princess cruise line round trip from SF. All Ages (special programs on board for children of all ages).

We are currently taking reservations for all of the above trips and some payment plans can be set up for all trips.

Questions can be answered by calling 559-474-0505 or emailing Sharry Rivas at srivas@prodigy.net.

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PASTOR cont. from P. 6

some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, (that is the church)," (Eph 4:11-12 NRSV).

Jesus made the case that we are to do what He did: "I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father," (John 14:12 NIV).

We may not be able to do what Jesus did with any kind of perfection, but by goodness, we sure can practice what Jesus did. By goodness, we sure can rehearse and attempt and try and go through what Jesus did. By goodness, we can practice "agape" loving like Jesus did.

After all, isn't the church a matter of faith and love and isn't God a matter of faith and love? Doesn't life require a cupful of faith and doesn't life require a bread crumb of love? To say the Lord's prayer, to ask for forgiveness and give forgiveness to others – to believe that the true love of God will prevail – doesn't that require some kind of faith and doesn't that take practice?

One time, Jesus said: "Come to

me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light," (Matthew 11:28).

"These words" of Jesus remind me of the words of Emma Lazarus that are inscribed in the Statue of Liberty. In those words I see the gospel of Jesus and I can hear the words of the church: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

In the journey of life, there are many of us who can claim that we were once lost and a stranger to God. But somebody found us, somebody loved us, somebody reached out and said to us when we least deserved it: "I claim you as my family, once you were an enemy, but now I call you friend."

That "somebody" was Jesus Christ and today we have something to celebrate.

Rev Bob Crabb is the Pastor of the Christian Mission Center meeting at 36875 Avenue 12 (Loren Way and Ave. 12). They worship Sundays at 10:30 a.m. and all are welcome.

D.O.G. cont. from P. 4

Not one of the problems I see is caused by our government's basic foundation. Don't get me wrong, the foundation has a couple of cracks that need patching. The initiatives like Prop. 13 and Prop. 218 need to be replaced by something that works better. At the summit/rally Prop. 13 was called the third rail of California politics. If the idea was to eliminate Prop. 13 I would be standing in front of the line of protesters. If what was suggested was to replace it with a new and improved, well-written prop 13, it would be a different story.

Use what we have learned, look at where it is unbalanced and unfair, look at the loopholes our little garden gnomes in Sacramento have found and close them.

We often elect good people to represent us but the system quietly and secretly corrupts them until one day they have turned into

sneaky, calculating, compromising little gnomes wasting our money. If they dare to cross the party line, their ears get a little pointy; if they stand on their true beliefs, they are thumped on the head by party leadership until they are much shorter, stripped of their garments of logic, truth and the need to represent the people that voted for them. The process continues: they are rewarded for staying in line by receiving their pointed hats (the party way of thinking) and the concept of "This is how it is done in Sacramento." If you help with the transition of new arrivals and protect the process you get rewarded with colorful clothes (committee appointments). We don't see the change taking place because it isn't "poof" – you are a gnome; it is ever so gradual.

The cockroaches are the special interest groups, the rats are the lobbyists. We need an exterminator not a new foundation.

“Adopt A Book” Helps You Keep Madera Ranchos Library Stocked

By Ellen Mester

Adopt-A-Book program

The Ranchos Library has established a new program to help keep the library stocked with quality children’s books during these tough economic times. Each quarter there will be 12 new children’s non-fiction books available for adoption. These books are selected by a children’s librarian for quality, content and relevance. They may be adopted for \$20 each by one or more people and there will be a book plate placed on the inside cover with the names of the adoptive person(s). Adoption papers will be signed by the staff and copies available for tax purposes. Periodic updates on the life and care of the book will also be available by the library staff at the front desk.

The first set of books available for adoption pertains to the “Be Creative Summer Reading Program” theme. Six of the books are about different types of music such as rock, reggae, country, classical, hip-hop and Latin with the sub-title of “Create and Appreciate What Makes Music Great!” The other six books focus on different crafts such as melt/pour soap, beaded jewelry, clay projects, rubber stamp art, scrapbooking and various painted crafts. These books are appropriate for a wide age range with simple instructions yet enough depth to be interesting for older kids too.

New Library Fund-Raising

We are always looking for innovative fund-raising ideas to help us build a new library. Although the Ranchos Library is a branch of the Madera County Library, the funds needed to build a new library will have to come from several sources. Sources will include private donors, the community and the Friends of the Ranchos Library. Grant funding and funds allocated from state and local government will make up the rest of it.

We have S.H.A.R.E. cards for Save Mart and Food Max that will give the New Library 3 percent on purchases made at their stores. If you don’t have one yet, be sure to stop by the library and pick one up. We also are part of the Kids 4 Recycling program that will generate income from recycling. And we have coffee mugs, book bags, Snickers bars and pencils for sale as well as our regular book sales. All these things help but we need some major fund-raising! If anyone has any ideas and would like to help us build a new library, please contact me at the library.

Be Creative @ the Ranchos Library!

The Summer Reading Program has begun! Join us each week at the library for creative activities and programs. Pick up your reading log packet and win prizes for reading. It’s a great way for children to spend the summer — at no cost to mom and dad. A list of the activities and performers are listed below.

Summer Line-up (already underway)		
Kick-off party	June 18th	Noon to 5 pm.
Music: The Resistance	June 24th	2 p.m.
Art: Mural painting	July 1	2 p.m.
Science: Mr. Bubble Man	July 8	2 p.m.
Puppetry: Matt McGee	July 15	2 p.m.
Paper/Story art: Randel McGee	July 22	2 p.m.
Movement: Electronic games	July 29	2 p.m.

The Teen portion of the Summer Reading Program, “Express Yourself @ the Ranchos Library!” had an excellent turnout for its kick-off party with 26 kids from the Ranchos Middle School and Liberty High School in attendance. We played electronic games, board games, made jewelry, ate pizza and won door prizes. Teens: you can still pick up your reading log at the Ranchos Library or at Liberty H.S. library.

Book Recommendations

Juvenile Fiction: *Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls. There is nothing better sometimes than re-reading an old favorite like this book. It has been a classic for a long time yet still maintains all the initial charm and excitement. Like most boys, Billie wanted a dog — not just any dog, but a hound dog; two in fact. After saving for two years, Billie finally has enough to send a way for two pups. Too anxious to wait for them to arrive by train and then by wagon, Billie walks over 20 miles to the train station to pick up his dogs. Carrying the two pups on his back he walks back home. While camped beside a creek he spies a heart carved into the bark of a tree with the names Ann and Dan inside. Feeling this was a sign, Billie names his new pups, Little Ann and Old Dan.

Over the next several months, Billie trains his pups how to hunt raccoons. He teaches them how crafty raccoons can be when they are trying to lose blood hounds on their trail. His dogs become expert and with the extra income that the raccoon furs bring, he helps his family to make ends meet on the family farm in the Ozarks. The bond between the dogs and Billie is very precious, and the whole family grows to love them too. *Where the Red Fern Grows* has significance at the end of this heart-warming story.

Adult Fiction: *The Loop* by Nicholas Evans. It’s the biologists against the ranchers with a wolf family caught in the middle. Buck Caulder is a third generation Montana rancher

Please see **BOOKSHELF** on P. 15



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KIWANIS KORNER



By President Steve Monk

Kiwanis Club of the Ranchos would like to wish all of our new grads congratulations and remember to make every moment count in life. This is the time for all the schools in Golden Valley School District to have a celebration for the graduating students and members from the Kiwanis Club of the Ranchos were at each and every event. It is a time for all of us to wish these students success on their new endeavors.



The 2009 Kiwanis Student of the Year award was presented to Clare Wardle who received a plaque and a \$500 savings bond from the Kiwanis Club.

July Fourth is here and once again the Kiwanis Club of the Ranchos has our Fireworks Booth fundraiser. This year we have moved

our location to S&K Market's parking lot. Please help support our local kids by purchasing you fireworks from the Kiwanis Club booth. Stop by and have some fun.

Now let's talk about what the Kiwanis is all about. The Kiwanis Club of the Ranchos is a service club collectively united by local community members looking to volunteer their time and resources to enhance the lives of children in their local community and worldwide. We help sponsor many service projects throughout the world, but we pay special attention to our local community schools and children by holding fund raisers and sponsoring, or co-sponsoring, events

that help children here in the Madera Ranchos.

The Kiwanis Club of the Ranchos would like to thank everyone who supported our Cross the River Run. This year we had over 120 participants. The Cross the River Run helps to raise money to support local scholarship programs offered by the Kiwanis Club.

During the Ranchos Middle School Promotion Ceremony the Hope of America Award was presented to Jaycob Rousey and Jordyn DeChamplain. The 2009 Kiwanis Student of the Year award was presented to Clare Wardle who received a plaque and a \$500 savings bond from the Kiwanis Club.

If you are interested in volunteering some time and giving back to your community, please feel free to connect with any of our new officers for 2008. They would be happy to answer your questions.

What is on track for the club in the next few months:

Fourth of July Fireworks booth
Special Olympic Fishing Derby,
July 11

One more announcement to make for our club is our meeting times have changed. The club is now meeting at the Pizza Factory. The Pizza Factory has graciously donated their meeting room for our use. Our meetings are every Thursday evening at 6:30 pm at the Pizza Factory, except the first Thursday of the month which is held at 6:45 am to help accommodate our members who have difficulty attending the evening meetings. Thanks again to Hal and Mary Ann Parks for donating the meeting room at the Pizza Factory.

- President - Steven Monk
- President Elect - John Herrera
- Vice President - Sharon Dunn
- Secretary - Sandy Monk
- Treasurer - Marie Cameron
- Past President - Pam Glueck
- Board Member - Chris Parks
- Board Member - Jim Heiden
- Board Member - Joliene Mason
- Board Member - Virginia Vick
- Board Member - Ollie Ridge

Visit www.ranchoskiwanis.org to reach us online or you can also write to us at:

Kiwanis Club of the Ranchos,
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The Old Cowboy

by Woody Laughnan

I had to look twice at the figure trudging along the railroad track because I'd not seen the likes of him in years, an honest-to-goodness hobo with a bindle sack, and apparently only a few minutes removed from a box car and heading toward the downtown Rescue Mission. In another time he wouldn't be going in this direction, but to a nearby grove of eucalyptus where hobos cooked and huddled around smoldering fires.

Catching up and falling in stride, neither of us spoke for a minute or so. Although not as colorful as hobos of old, he did possess a number of traditional trappings: rag-tag clothes, frying pan dangling from the bindle, red bandana around the neck and a water pipe opener.

"You a cop?" he asked with a surly glance and grimace that exposed a black hole left by two missing front teeth and a scraggly lock of grimy gray hair curled from under a battered gray felt.

No, I told him, that I was out on my morning stroll and hadn't seen a hobo in years and did he mind if I tailed along.

He grunted something unintelligible; apparently it was in the positive. But rather than continue downtown, he headed toward a smoldering campfire beneath a freeway ramp where a couple of disheveled men were eating something they'd prepared in a gallon can. One quickly held a hand against the left side of his face as we approached and scowled at me.

"What the hell you looking at?" he asked.

"Nothing," I said, careful not to look at him. But I did before he concealed a large ugly birthmark that covered most of the left side of his face.

Assuming this was a sort of hobo jungle, I looked around for a resident tramp but apparently there wasn't one as there would have been when the world and I were young. Folks used to believe tramp was just another name for hobo but that was rarely the case. Hobos were generally on the move, although now and then taking temporary field work but always with itchy feet to be moving on down the line to the next place, while a tramp was pretty much a camp regular, living on leftover food in hobo pots and discards of nearby

residents. Back on the farm we lived about a half mile from the track and now and then a hobo came to the kitchen door for a hand-out, offering to chop wood or hoe weeds in payment. Papa hired a few of them over the years to help with the haying but they never stayed long because mama was by no means a gourmet cook. Nevertheless, mama was a God-fearing, hymn-singing, heaven-praising, heathen-hating Missouri Baptist with a passion for helping folks out, and always managed to fix something for a hungry hobo. One day in particular that I remember she fixed one a liverwurst, peanut butter, mayonnaise and dill pickle sandwich and the hobo took one bite, yelled "rat poison," spat it out and threw it toward our old dog, Spareribs, who wasn't having any of it either and ran to the barn and hid out most of the afternoon. I told the story and one of the hobos - grizzled, unshaven and in dire need of a shower - grinned.

"That sandwich sure don't sound appetizin' to me either," he said. "In the old days when we ran into houses where the missus was a poor cook, we made a 'skull and bones' pencil mark on a post warning the next 'bo not to stop there."

I asked how it was riding the freights today and the birth-marked man, still holding hand over the left cheek, spat a wad of chewing tobacco on the fire and listened to it sizzle.

"They ain't many of us old-timers out on the road no more," he said "Not many open box car doors for one thing, some downright nasty bulls (railroad police) for another, but worst of all, there are some *\$%#@#'s on the run ridin' out there nowadays who'd cut your throat for a dime."

I would guess he is right. And I saw it coming on my last ride back in 1988.

"The old days were best days," added the hobo I'd walked with to the underpass, a melancholy tone in his voice. "In the olden days we protected each other, and we didn't steal from one another either. We were truly 'Knights of the Road.'"

Then reaching into his bindle sack for a pencil, on a piece of brown wrapping paper he drew some crude signs he said hobos left on buildings, fences and other places to advise the next passer by what to expect.



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Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes

by Jean Briner



Before I start the article for this month's issue, I want to sincerely thank all the kind calls, e-mails and people coming into the office and commenting on the articles. I've received some very interesting recipes and intend to use as many as I can in coming issues. But please, don't stop. If you have something you would like to share, please let me know.

My favorite meal to eat out is breakfast. I'm about the only one in the family that likes to eat breakfast out, so I don't get to do it very often unless I want to go into a restaurant by myself. However, I have a friend that also likes breakfast out so we meet every couple of months for breakfast.

Our (maternal) grandpa and grandma had a farm of about 40-plus acres with about 25 cows that had to be milked twice a day. Until they got older, they farmed it by themselves. I remember going to visit them and they always had a big breakfast. There would be a meat of some kind, pork chops, homemade sausage, ham or sometimes fried rabbit (as I told Rachael, "No, it wasn't Thumper."), eggs fresh from the hen house and always biscuits and gravy, and all cooked on a wood stove. Then there would always be either canned or fresh fruit. After the cows were milked and most of the morning chores were done, they would come in for "dinner" around two o'clock and have a big meal, then go back out and finish their work and at dusk they would come in and have "supper" which would be cold cereal in the summer (I remember grandpa's favorite cereal was puffed rice) or hot cereal in the winter, or sometimes baked sweet potatoes.

I can't find my mom's recipe for biscuits - they were so light and fluffy. That was about the only thing she really didn't enjoy making, but if we begged she would do it.

She said when she was growing up she had to get up every morning and make biscuits for their family before school started.

Forgive me mama for what I am about to say but I realize making biscuits from scratch is not the easiest thing and it is very time consuming, and messy. Bisquick makes a pretty good biscuit and there are those canned biscuits which some are pretty good, but you have to bake the whole can. Have you

As a side note here, if your mom, dad, grandma, grandpa, or any other family member, neighbor or even if you are at a pot luck and there is something you like and would want to preserve that recipe ASK FOR IT! Because if you don't and it isn't written down, when they are gone so is the recipe.

Please see **RECIPES** on P. 12

RECIPES cont. from P. 11

tried the frozen biscuits in a bag? Pillsbury makes them, and also if you have the Swans home delivery, they have them. You only have to thaw and bake whatever number you need, and pop the rest back in the freezer in the sealed bag. And, until they find the bag in the freezer, you can say they are “home-made.”

As a side note here, if your mom, dad, grandma, grandpa, or any other family member, neighbor or even if you are at a pot luck and there is something you like and would want to preserve that recipe ASK FOR IT! Because if you don't and it isn't written down, when they are gone so is the recipe.

Today, with life being on such a fast pace, we don't have (or take) the time for breakfast. It's coffee and toast if you are lucky, and the kids get a bowl of Fruit Loops or a Pop Tart. As all the nutritionists tell us, breakfast is the most important meal of the day. It doesn't have to be a “grandpa and grandma” breakfast, but something nutritious.

About a week before Easter, I was talking to Virginia Vick in the Chamber office about Easter dinner. She said she and Mervin have Easter for their family on Saturday before Easter. That way, they can all be together as a family on Saturday, and on Easter Sunday the kids can all go to their own church and have family time in their homes. They start with a brunch – and wow! I thought I was talking to Grandma Drinnen (that is not a slam at Virginia's' age because I am older than her). She fixes almost everything that my grandma did, and then some! Pork Chops, sausage, eggs, biscuits and gravy and breakfast casseroles. Then the rest of the day is spent playing cards, table games and the kids hide Easter eggs. I thought that was truly family togetherness. Then they do something similar on the 4th of July – wonder if they would want to adopt a 70+ year old “daughter” for those two days?

I ask Virginia if she would share the casserole recipes and

she very graciously gave them to me.

The first one doesn't have a title, but Virginia said she got this recipe from Ollia Ridge several years ago and uses it every year. So if you need a title, let's call it:

Ollie's Breakfast Bake

- 1 Pkg. Frozen Hash Browns (thawed)
- 2 C Sour Cream
- 2 C Cheddar Cheese – Shredded
- 1 Can Cream Of Chicken Soup
- ½ C Chopped Onions
- ¼ C Butter – Melted
- 2 T Chopped Parsley
- ½ tsp Pepper
- ¼ tsp Salt

Mix all ingredients in large bowl. Pour into a greased 9 x 13 baking dish and bake at 350 for 1 hour – uncovered.

Breakfast Casserole

- 1½ Lb. Sausage (Cooked & Drained)
- 2 C Sharp Cheddar Cheese
- 10 Eggs – Lightly Beaten
- 6 C Cubed Bread or Seasoned Croutons
- 3 C Milk
- 2 tsp Dry Mustard
- 1 Can Ortega Chilis
- 1 tsp Salt
- ½ tsp Black Pepper

Combine eggs, milk, mustard, salt and pepper. Set aside.

Place half the bread evenly in a buttered 9x13 baking dish. Sprinkle with half the shredded cheese and half the sausage. Place half the drained can of peppers next. Repeat layering ingredients again with bread, cheese, sausage and peppers. Pour egg mixture evenly over casserole. Bake at 325, uncovered 55-60 minutes or until eggs are set.

When Randy's family lived in southern California we would go down to visit and sometimes we would go to a restaurant in Claremont on Foothill Blvd. (part of the old Route 66) called Griswold's. It was a smorgasbord restaurant that served a Sunday morning brunch. They

Please see **RECIPES** on P. 15



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PG&E cont. from P. 2

derstand that the opposition to the Madera Ranchos route is just as strong, vocal and persistent.

The final route selection will be made by the California Public Utility Commission, or the CPUC. Their web site is at www.cpuc.ca.gov/puc. The CPUC regulates privately owned electric, natural gas, telecommunications, water, railroad, rail transit, and passenger transportation companies. Prior to the CPUC's selection and final decision, PG&E had to apply to the "Independent Systems Operator" or the ISO, which is at www.caiso.com/pubinfo/CPUC/index.html. The ISO is responsible for managing the flow of electricity throughout the transmission grid in California. The ISO is currently studying the PG&E application and will submit their results and recommendations to the CPUC along with PG&E's application. At this time the ISO is accepting public comments as part of their study.

"And here is where we come in"

We understand that the application to the CPUC will be submitted soon, so we would like to make sure ISO hears the voices of Madera Ranchos before any formal decisions get made. There will be for-

mal public hearings and all of our letters and comments will count. We have taken the liberty of creating a form letter to be sent to the ISO objecting to the Ranchos portion of the route. The letter is included in this issue of the Ranchos Independent as an insert, along with a stamped and addressed envelope. The letter covers the issues discussed above and requests that the ISO select another, less-populated route. You can simply sign that form letter and mail it in the included stamped envelope. Even better, if you would like to, rewrite the letter yourself, adding your own thoughts and feelings, and mail that version. The more letters the ISO receives, the better our chances of avoiding this new 500kV monster line in our community.

A petition signed by over 200 people opposing the PG&E plan was sent.

In addition, there were letters sent to PG&E by other stakeholders including:

- Assembly Member Mike Villines
- Golden Valley School District
- Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce
- Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

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Germans from Russia Group Holding Quarterly Luncheon

Sunday, July 19 at 12:30 p.m., the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia will be holding its Quarterly Luncheon at the Smuggler's Inn at the corner of W. Dakota and N. Blackstone Ave, Fresno.

The guest speaker will be Joan Kincaide speaking on the topic of "Coming to

America."

The menu will be marinated Tri-Tip with potatoes, mixed veggies, mixed green salad, bread/butter, beverage and dessert. All for only \$18 per person.

For more information call 559-229-8287 for reservations. Reservations must be made before July 13.

Youth Football Dinner Dance Coming

The Ranchos Youth Football is having its 2nd Annual Dinner Dance on Saturday, Aug. 8 at 6:30 p.m. at Birdstone Winery on Road 36 and Avenue 9. Tickets

are \$20 in advance or \$25.00 at the door. There will be a Live Auction and Dessert Auction. For more information call Michelle or John Stephens at 645-5346.

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Please join us for our FREE informational meeting on Tuesday, July 7 from 6 to 8 p.m.

For further information on becoming a Foster or Post-Adopt Parent, RSVP to Caroline at 559-222-4969 to reserve your spot.

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For more information, call (559) 661-5155

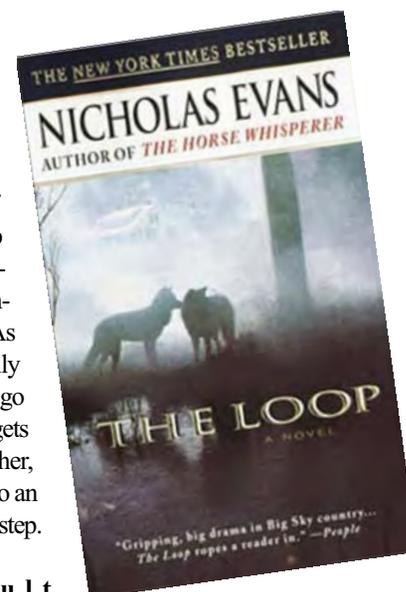
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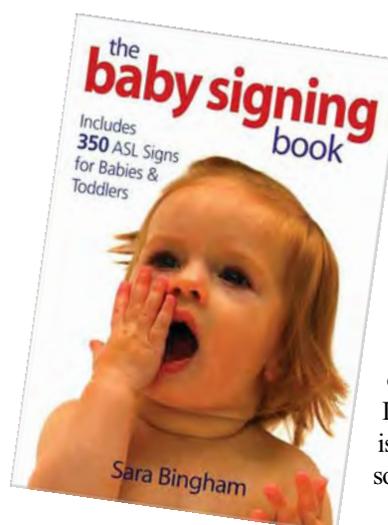
BOOKSHELF cont. from P. 8

and owner of thousands of acres of prime cattle land. Like most ranchers he hates wolves and blames the government and environmental groups for re-introducing wolves to Montana after near extinction by hunters. Helen Ross is a biologist specializing in wolf habitat and relocation, hired by the government to trap and relocate a rogue wolf that has been attacking Caulder cattle. What she finds is a town full of hostile ranchers with a dark history of ruthless wolf annihilation. As she begins to track the wolf she discovers a whole family pack and the horrible lengths that the town's people will go to in order to avoid hearing the truth about wolves. She gets unexpected help from Caulder's son Luke who, like her, loves the wolves and fears his father. The story comes to an exciting climax with guns drawn and tragedy at the doorstep.

**Adult
Non-fiction:**

The Baby Signing Book by Sara Bingham. Wouldn't it be wonderful to communicate in a meaningful way to your baby before he or she can talk? Small children actually understand a lot more than they can communicate. They get frustrated because they can't always make us know what they want. This book will guide you in basic signing that in conjunction with speaking will help you and your baby communicate earlier and better. The author started signing to her children at 6 months of age but feels now that she should have started sooner. Don't expect your baby to sign back though until he or she is about 9 months old. But when they do be prepared for some great conversations!

Check out these books and more at the library and remember your library card — don't leave home without it!



RECIPES cont. from P. 12

had a Bran Muffin that was absolutely to die for. I found the recipe card in my mom's bundle and will pass it on to you. I hope you like them as well as I do. This recipe makes 18 muffins.

Griswold's Bran Muffins

Preheat oven to 400 degrees
 $\frac{1}{4}$ C Butter or Margarine
 2 T Honey
 6 T Brown Sugar
 1 T Water
 6 T Granulated Sugar
 With electric mixer, cream butter and gradually beat in sugars. Blend in honey and water and beat until fluffy. Coat muffin tins liberally and evenly with this mixture, using about 2 tsp. per muffin cup.

Muffin Batter:

$\frac{1}{2}$ C Whole Wheat Flour
 $\frac{1}{2}$ C Raisins
 $\frac{3}{4}$ C Cake Flour
 2 Eggs, Slightly Beaten
 6 T Sugar

$\frac{1}{4}$ C Honey
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp Salt
 $\frac{1}{4}$ C Oil
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp Cinnamon
 $\frac{1}{4}$ C Crushed Pineapple
 Drained
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp Baking Soda
 3 C Whole Bran Cereal
 $1\frac{1}{2}$ C Buttermilk

Combine flours, sugar, salt, cinnamon and baking soda in medium bowl. Stir in raisins, eggs, honey, oil and pineapple. Stir in bran cereal and buttermilk until batter is smooth. Do not over mix! Fill the coated muffin tins three-fourths full. Bake in preheated oven 18-20 minutes. Remove muffins from tins immediately by turning tins upside down on cooling racks. These are so good when eaten warm you don't even have to put butter on them.

Again, I want to thank all the contributors, and remember, this article is supposed to be about you, not our family.



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What's the Hottest Dinner in the Ranchos? *Smoking Coal is Sizzlin'*

By Christi McKinney



Owner Jim Reed (right) gets ready for another day of hot barbecue at Smoking Coal as Roman Williams (center) cleans up the bar and waitress Aubrey Schooley has a delicious lunch.

family friendly atmosphere" said Reed. The kind of place where you want to hang out to watch a game on one of several TVs, check out all the sports memorabilia or just kick back and listen to some music. Children enjoy drawing on the butcher paper table cloths and having their work displayed on the ceiling of the restaurant. Adults can enjoy a beer or a drink from the bar or even shoot some pool.

Smoking Coal serves a variety of appetizers, BBQ Tri-Tip, pulled pork, chicken, baby back ribs, hamburgers, sandwiches and salads, along with a variety of side dishes that include kettle beans, cole slaw, rice pilaf and grilled vegetables. They pride themselves on serving fresh food with no preservatives. Many of the sauces and dressings are made fresh on site.

"The Ranchos is a fantastic community that loves to support local businesses," said Reed. "Business has picked up each month since we opened and the word is spreading. Customers

The mouth-watering aromas of BBQ coming from Smoking Coal, the Rancho's newest restaurant, might just be enough to slow down traffic on Avenue 12.

Co-Owners are Ranchos residents and longtime friends Jim Reed, Chad Ross and Paul Eddings, along with Bay Area resident Andy Hoffman. Their vision is to create "... a local hang out with a family atmosphere. A place you can go to enjoy a great home cooked meal, reasonably priced in a

are now driving in from Madera, Fresno, Clovis, Oakhurst and outlying communities to enjoy the food." Since opening they've already expanded their hours of operation and they are planning on expanding their menu to offer more of a variety of comfort foods. The catering and banquet side of their business has increased significantly. In addition to the restaurant and bar they have access to a banquet room next door that accommodates approximately 70 people. Reed estimates 50 percent of their current business is take out and 50 percent is dine in.

Smoking Coal currently has 12 employees, including several Liberty High School students. Aubrey Schooley, 17, a Jr. at Liberty High School, said she "... enjoys the family atmosphere and is happy to see so many of her friends coming in." Roman Williams, 18, a recent Liberty High School graduate, enjoys being part of the Smoking Coal team and the people he works with.

All teams that come in wearing their jerseys are given a "Team Discount" of 10 percent. Wednesday nights have quickly become popular as "Bike Night" where motorcycle enthusiasts gather. Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights are "Baby Back Rib Nights." When you go you'll want to go early as they often sell out.

Smoking Coal will be celebrating their Grand Opening on Saturday, July 25 with a Vintage Car Show and Merchants Fair. This will include great food, booths from local vendors and games for the children. The event is a benefit for Valley Children's Hospital.

Smoking Coal is located at 37275 Avenue 12, Madera Ranchos and their phone number is 645-1106.



Jim Reed posts the tablecloth artwork of budding Ranchos artists on his ceiling for all to see.

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Golden Valley Unified School District Superintendent, Sarah Koligian.

By Superintendent Sarah Koligian

Golden Valley Unified celebrated the end of the school year on June 5 highlighting many student accomplishments. Students and staff worked diligently throughout the year which culminated during the graduation, promotion and appreciation ceremonies that took place during the last week of school.

Golden Valley Celebrates Student Accomplishments

The celebrations kicked off on June 3 by recognizing 20 high school graduates from the Educational Options programs – eight graduates from Centennial Independent Study; nine graduates from Golden Valley Adult; and three graduates from Independence Continuation High School – a record number of graduates to date. I had the privilege of interviewing all of our graduates about what Educational Options meant to them and to ask them about their future plans. I was most impressed that every student recognized at least one staff member at Educational Options that had a profound impact on their life, and in many cases helped to re-focus them towards graduation and beyond. Also part of Educational Options, Valley Teen Ranch Community Day School had one student who graduated with honors from their program and three other students who were promoted within the program. Their ceremony, which took place on June 5, was a very personal and touching ceremony. We congratulate all of our graduates and thank their teachers and support staff that helped make each of

these students successful.

The celebrations continued honoring Liberty High School's fifth graduating class on Thursday, June 4. Not only did Liberty earn the prestigious California Distinguished School recognition this past May, but Liberty proudly graduated every senior student in the 2009 graduating class, meeting all the rigorous graduation requirements set forth by the Governing Board of Trustees. This year LHS also had a record number of honor students, including 11 Valedictorians in a class of 130 students. The theme chosen by the seniors for this year's ceremony was centered on a quote by Milton Berle, "If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door." We heard many examples throughout the evening's ceremony from students, administration and Board members on how to make the most of the opportunities presented in life and how to seek out opportunities when they are not as obvious. This year's senior class presented Liberty High School with a very unique gift that students, staff and community will enjoy and appreciate for many years to come. The Senior class

purchased a beautiful, stately outdoor clock that was mounted on the F wing tower facing the quad. The clock tower displays "09" at the nine o'clock position on the clock to remind all future generations of the importance of time and how quickly it passes by.

Ranchos Middle School celebrated an award-filled ceremony in the Liberty High School gymnasium on June 5. Unpredictable weather caused the ceremony to be moved indoors. The bleachers and seats were full of enthusiastic and proud family members, staff, friends and community. Ranchos Middle School also made Golden Valley very proud this year by earning the prestigious California Distinguished School recognition, joining Liberty High School (2009), Sierra View Elementary (2008) and Webster Elementary (2004). This is the first year in Golden Valley's 10-year history that every single comprehensive school site is a California Distinguished School. There are not too many school districts in Califor-

Please see **KOLIGIAN** on P. 20

New Ranchos Middle School Schedules August 13 Grand Opening

By Rick A. Diaz

The newest addition to Golden Valley Unified School District is the New Ranchos Middle School Facility located at 12455 Road 35 ½ in the Madera Ranchos. The construction phase of the school is wrapping up and the site is scheduled to be turned over to the district the first week of July 2009. Once Golden Valley Unified takes possession of the completed campus, the classrooms and offices will be outfitted with new furniture, furnishings and equipment in preparation of housing 7th and 8th grade students for the 2009/2010 school year. As part of the playfield build-out for the new middle school, the upper portion of the ponding basin located just west of Avenue 12 and Road 36 is being converted to playfields. By grading the upper portion and adding drainage along with mow

strip and fencing for security, the area can be utilized for extracurricular school activities and facility use for other organizations. Ranchos Middle School staff and students are looking forward to having a new modern facility with new technology and most of all a spacious campus with a Library, Gymnasium, Locker Rooms and Multi-purpose Building. Golden Valley Unified School District will be holding an official ribbon cutting ceremony on Tuesday, Aug. 4 to celebrate the addition of its newest campus. In addition to the ribbon cutting ceremony on Aug. 4, Golden Valley will also celebrate its tenth year as a district. Please look for a community invitation to this event in the July issue of the Ranchos Independent.

Rick A. Diaz is the Manager of Facilities for Golden Valley Unified School District.



Golden Valley Unified School District's newest addition, the Ranchos Middle School facility, is finishing up right now and is scheduled for a Grand Opening on Tuesday, Aug. 4, complete with ribbon cutting, tours and the opportunity to showcase the District's most state-of-the-art educational facility.

Golden Valley Unified School District

Graduation 2009

Ceremonies, Gifts and Snapshots



A gift from the Class of 2009 was a clock for the tower on the north side of the Liberty High campus, complete with a distinctive "09" to remind future students of how time flies.



The Golden Valley School Board, (from left) Steven Lewis, Mona Diaz, Mark Toole, Superintendent Sarah Koligian, Roger Schuh and Mike Kelly prepare to preside over the Liberty High Class of 2009 Graduation.



On June 3, 20 high school graduates from the Educational Options programs, including Centennial Independent Study, Golden Valley Adult and Independence Continuation High School were honored.



The Golden Valley School Board was again called upon to oversee the 8th Grade Promotion at Ranchos Middle School on Friday, June 5 at the Liberty High School gymnasium.

KOLIGIAN cont. from P. 19

nia that can claim that title. RMS promoted 150 8th grade students and over 100 of these students earned one or more of the following: Principal's Honor Roll, Mustang Honor Roll, Honor Roll; and California Junior Scholarship Federation honor memberships. Next year, we anticipate another successful year for Ranchos Middle School as they celebrate their 8th grade promotion in their new state-of-the-art facility, opening August 2009.

The school year ended with Webster Elementary and Sierra View Elementary celebrating the many academic accomplishments of this year's 6th grade students. Webster promoted over 100 students to 7th grade. The 6th grade class enjoyed their highlight video from their memorable trip to Calvin Crest, they recognized the many students who attended Webster from kindergarten through 6th grade, and they honored two students with perfect attendance. The ceremony was highlighted with four exceptional student speakers, two of which addressed their commitment to the DARE program (Drug & Alcohol Resistance Education). Seats were full of attentive and proud Webster family members and friends.

The Sierra View 6th grade class honored approximately 50 outstanding students who earned their promotion to 7th grade. Students were recognized with honor certificates highlighting academic and good citizenship awards. Every single Sierra View Panther student in grades kindergarten through 5th grade attended the ceremony and cheered for their classmates and role models as they received their awards. Parents and friends were there in force, including a group of enthusiastic parents who came in soccer team jerseys and cheered the students on as they received their awards.

Congratulations to all of our student graduates and promotees. It has been a fantastic 2008-2009 school year! I want to personally thank our dedicated Governing Board of Trustees for their ongoing support of our students, staff and programs. I also thank every parent, staff and community member for partnering with Golden Valley Unified to give our students many opportunities for success.

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Mission Statement

The mission of Golden Valley Unified School District is to provide our students the means to achieve to their highest potential within a caring, secure environment.



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Look Out Kindergarten! Here's the Class of 2021

Look out kindergarten! Robyn's Day Care has just produced its Graduation Class of 2009. In 12 short years they will be the Liberty High Class of 2021.

Preparing to eat their graduation cake are (from left) Katelyn Browne, Allyx Faretta, Macae Sewell and Madison Sciaqua. Not pictured is Mikey Ingalls.

Ongoing research by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development suggests that children in quality day-care centers may even have an intellectual edge over those in other kinds of care. When researchers compared kids in quality daycare to those in other, equally high-quality childcare situations, children in centers performed a little better on tests.

Look out S.A.T.s!



Ranchos Writer Offers *Achievable Wealth* ... Now!

Ranchos resident and author, Jeff Smith, has written a new book that asks the question that's on all of our minds: Who can afford to retire now?

In his book, *Achievable Wealth*, Smith reveals a different approach to the subject of wealth and retirement using income replacement. Through small business ventures, smart investing, by getting your retirement money out of the stock market and into a Self directed IRA which allows you to invest in real estate, businesses and other more lucrative, less volatile investments and creating income from work you are

already doing, you can replace your current income from your career to enjoy a younger retirement or live a life of semi-retirement and never retire in the traditional sense. The idea is to live by design, not by default. Traditional retirement is a necessary part of life for millions, because they must perform a job for the thirty or forty years in most cases

they dislike. They must spend the most productive years of their life doing what they hate and deferring their life's passions to a time when they may be too old to enjoy them.

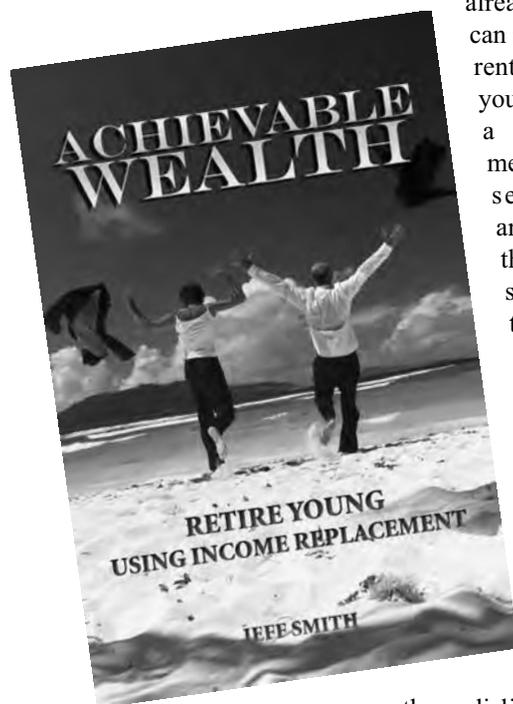
Achievable Wealth's Income Replacement gives you the time to travel and enjoy your life, your family and the work you do now, as well as providing passive income streams to insure a secure future. This idea is designed for the working men and women of America that want the freedom that wealth brings, without a lifetime of penny-pinching or self-imposed slavery.

Recession, the Stock Market, the loss in Your IRA or 401K -- when are you going to be able to retire? Is retirement in the traditional sense a thing of the past? Well it should be! Each of us, on an average, lives longer and longer and to expect a company's pension plan or the government through Social Security to provide us with an income from the traditional retirement age of 65 to the end of our very long lives isn't reasonable. It is just as unreasonable for the average working person to save the millions of dollars it takes to fund the traditional comfortable retirement.

To achieve wealth and design a life worth living, you must first realize what "wealth" is. Wealth is financial freedom, the ability to choose to work or not to work without having to generate an income from your time. In America we have been convinced that wealth is determined by the home we live in, the car we drive and the title we have been given, but like the fictional character of Ned in *Achievable Wealth*, who is a high paid attorney, the appearance of wealth comes at a price. With his higher salary comes higher taxes and indebtedness for all those 'material things' he thinks he must have. Ted on the other hand is a school teacher, as is his wife. Between their two salaries and modest life style they are financially better off and have an easier time achieving financial freedom.

Many Americans look at times like these as a time to survive, but it can be a time to thrive. For the first time in recent memory you can buy a single family home in the state of California, rent it out and have a positive cash flow. There are still opportunities to create wealth and secure your retirement, the problem is that many Americans will only see them when this recession is over and these current opportunities are no longer there!

Jeff's *Achievable Wealth* is available at Barnes & Noble, www.amazon.com and www.authorhouse.com.



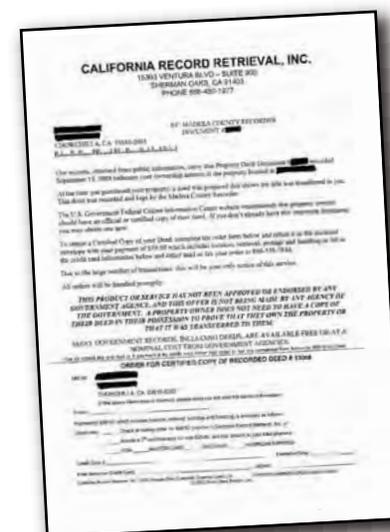
Fraud Alert Issued

Sheriff John Anderson is issuing a fraud alert to homeowners throughout Madera County about an unscrupulous "you've-just-won" game in which the caller tells the recipient about huge cash winnings and the caller will stop by your residence so that you can claim your prize.

In one case the caller announced himself as David King, representing the U.S.P.S. and provided the resident with a return number: 1-876-505-9599.

Sheriff Anderson urges the public to hang up and notify authorities immediately. If you have caller ID record the number so that you can provide it to authorities.

Beware: Deed Solicitations



Sheriff Warns of Property Deed Solicitations

Sheriff John Anderson is issuing a warning to all Madera County property owners about a solicitation that you may receive in the mail regarding how to obtain certified copies of property deeds. The solicitation comes from a company called California Record Retrieval, Inc. located in Sherman Oaks. In order to obtain a certified copy of your property deed, the company instructs you to complete an order form attached to the mailer and return it along with a payment of \$59.50.

Sheriff Anderson says the Madera County Recorder's Office already provides this service and for far less. According to the Recorder's Office, "The deed is generally a one-page document, which will cost 50 cents a page plus \$2.75 for the certification."

Anyone who wishes to obtain a certified copy of his or her property deed only has to contact the Madera County Recorder's Office.

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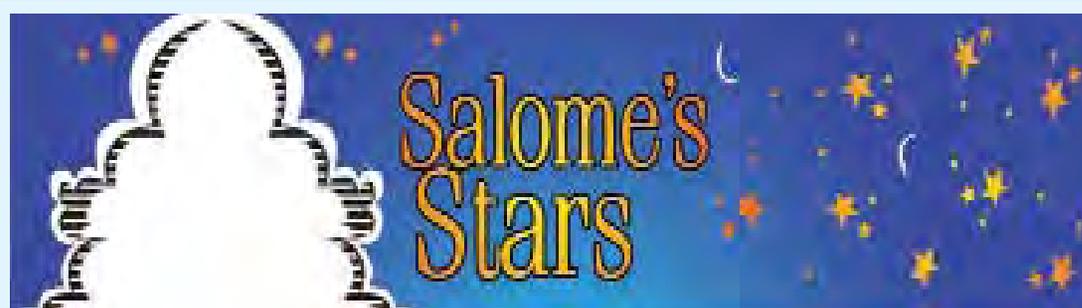
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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) A change of season reinvigorates the Lamb, helping to overcome the effects of a recent slower-paced period. This is a good time to restate your feelings for that certain someone.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You might not like using your authority to correct a workplace situation, but that's what being placed in charge is all about. Besides, you have people ready to lend support if need be.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Your creativity continues to run high and helps guide you to make some fine choices in the work you're doing. Keep the weekend free for those special people in your life.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Don't be surprised if you experience a sudden spurt of energy strong enough to pull you out of that recent period of indecision and put you back in charge of your own goals.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) This is a good time for Leos and Leonas to set new goals regarding health, educational choices and possible career moves. The plans you make now could be a blueprint for your future.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) You might have much to offer a potential employer, but it can all be overwhelmed by too many details. Let the facts about you speak for themselves without any embellishments.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) This is a good week to balance your responsibilities to your work-a-day world with your obligations to the people in your private life. Expect news that could lead to a change in plans.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A changing attitude on the part of a once determined adversary could cause changes down the line. Be prepared to take advantage of an unexpected new opportunity.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You'd be a truly wise Sagittarius to be skeptical about an offer that doesn't answer all your questions. Even a colleague's testimonial doesn't replace facts that aren't there.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) It's a good idea to avoid spending on unnecessary purchases this week in order to keep a money reserve against a possible upcoming (but, fortunately, temporary) shortfall.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) More information is what you should demand regarding that workplace situation that recently came to light. Don't be surprised at who might turn up as one of your supporters.

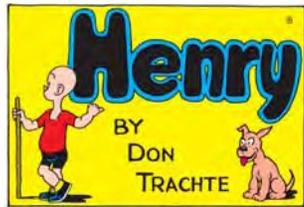
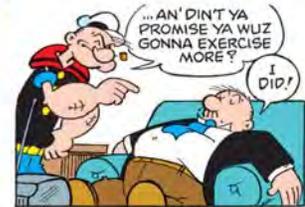
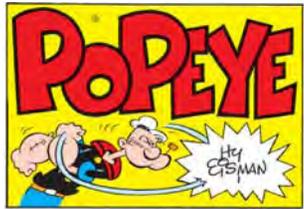
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You might still be in a "treading water" mode, but by midweek, a shift in your aspect favors taking a more active role in pushing for the changes you feel are necessary. Good luck.

Born this Week

*You exude a warm, caring attitude that comforts
everyone who comes into your life.*

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BY AL SCADUTO



—Thank to M. STEINBERG, BOYNTON BEACH, FLA.



H'MM... NO... COULD YOU USE MUCH LIGHTER COLORS? AND I THINK THE SUBJECT MATTER SHOULDN'T BE SO VIOLENT... WHAT OTHER DESIGNS DO YOU HAVE?



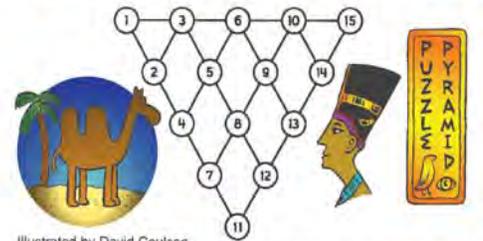
MIX AND MATCH! Can you spot the two keys that are exactly alike?
Answer: Keys 2 and 8

ODD WORD OUT! To the right is a list of five words. Can you figure out which word doesn't belong on the list?
Answer: Raining. The other words all contain the name of a cereal grain. (1. Corn, 3. Oats, 4. Rye, 5. Wheat.)

FIND THE SEVEN WORDS PUZZLE! In the word square at the right, we've removed six of the letters to spell out the word "STIFLE." See if you can replace these letters in the squares so that you will have four three-letter words across and three four-letter words down. The time limit is 60 seconds.
Answers: (Across) Four, (Up, Sid, Str, Toy) Fast, (Down) Fast, olio, eery.

S	T	I	F	L	E
A					
	O				
			R		
				O	Y

Junior Whirl



THE GREAT PUZZLE PYRAMID
Here's a problem that should keep you busy for hours. On our puzzle board, place 14 coins on all of the circles except No. 6. Now, jumping one coin over another along the lines, as you would in checkers, and removing the jumped-over coin, try to remove every coin from the board except one. As an extra challenge, try to leave the last coin in circle No. 6.

Wishing Well

4	3	7	3	8	3	7	6	7	3	8	3	4
U	A	D	F	P	T	U	Y	T	E	R	N	
5	2	3	4	3	2	3	5	3	5	2	6	8
A	B	H	S	O	E	U	B	R	E	G	O	R
7	3	4	6	2	7	5	3	4	3	2	7	8
I	S	E	U	R	E	A	S	L	U	A	S	F
2	8	2	7	5	4	6	8	3	4	7	4	3
C	E	I	R	M	F	E	C	C	I	E	S	C
5	4	7	2	7	2	6	3	5	6	7	6	4
I	H	D	O	E	U	X	E	N	T	F	E	A
6	4	2	3	7	3	7	5	6	7	8	6	4
G	I	S	S	I	S	N	S	N	E	T	D	D
8	7	5	6	5	8	5	6	8	5	6	8	6
L	D	M	H	I	I	L	E	F	E	L	E	P

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

MAGIC MAZE • PORTLY WORDS

O	A	I	Q	T	N	T	K	I	F	C	Z	W	U	
R	P	I	M	P	O	R	T	A	N	C	E	T	M	T
J	H	E	R	P	O	C	O	Z	X	U	S	R	R	S
Q	N	L	J	P	O	G	L	P	E	C	Z	O	X	T
V	T	R	W	P	O	R	O	A	N	N	P	P	L	R
J	H	E	X	P	O	R	T	A	G	E	S	C	O	
A	N	Y	W	V	T	T	T	S	L	U	V	N	R	P
P	N	L	K	I	I	G	E	E	C	B	T	A	Z	S
X	W	U	C	S	R	O	T	R	O	P	E	R	D	S
P	O	O	M	L	J	I	G	E	D	B	A	T	O	A
Y	X	W	U	T	S	Q	P	Y	A	R	T	R	O	P

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Airport	Newport	Porto	Sports
Davenport	Passport	Portray	Teleport
Importance	Portage	Portugal	Transport
Imports	Portico	Report	

TRIVIA TEST

- COMICS: What was the name of Calvin's teacher in "Calvin & Hobbes"?
- LANGUAGE: What does it mean when something is described as being "draconian"?
- GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of Ecuador?
- MATH: What is the sequence in Fibonacci numbers?
- ADVERTISING SLOGANS: What product "takes a licking and keeps on ticking," according to its 1950s advertising slogan?
- LITERATURE: What Southern author often wrote novels set in the fictional "Yoknapatawpha County"?
- ENTERTAINERS: In what year did actress Grace Kelly become the Princess of Monaco?
- FOOD & DRINK: What vegetable is used in making sauerkraut?
- TELEVISION: What was Marge Simpson's maiden name on the sitcom "The Simpsons"?
- HISTORY: In what U.S. city was the Democratic National Convention held in 1968?

- Answers**
- Miss Wormwood
 - Extremely harsh or cruel
 - Quit
 - The first two Fibonacci numbers are 0 and 1 and each number that follows is the sum of the previous two: 0+1=1, 1+1=2, 1+2=3, 2+3=5, etc.
 - A Timex watch
 - William Faulkner
 - 1956
 - Cabbage
 - Bouvier
 - Chicago
- (c) 2009 King Features Synd., Inc.

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



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WWW.MAMASBOYZ.COM

JERRY CRAFT



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



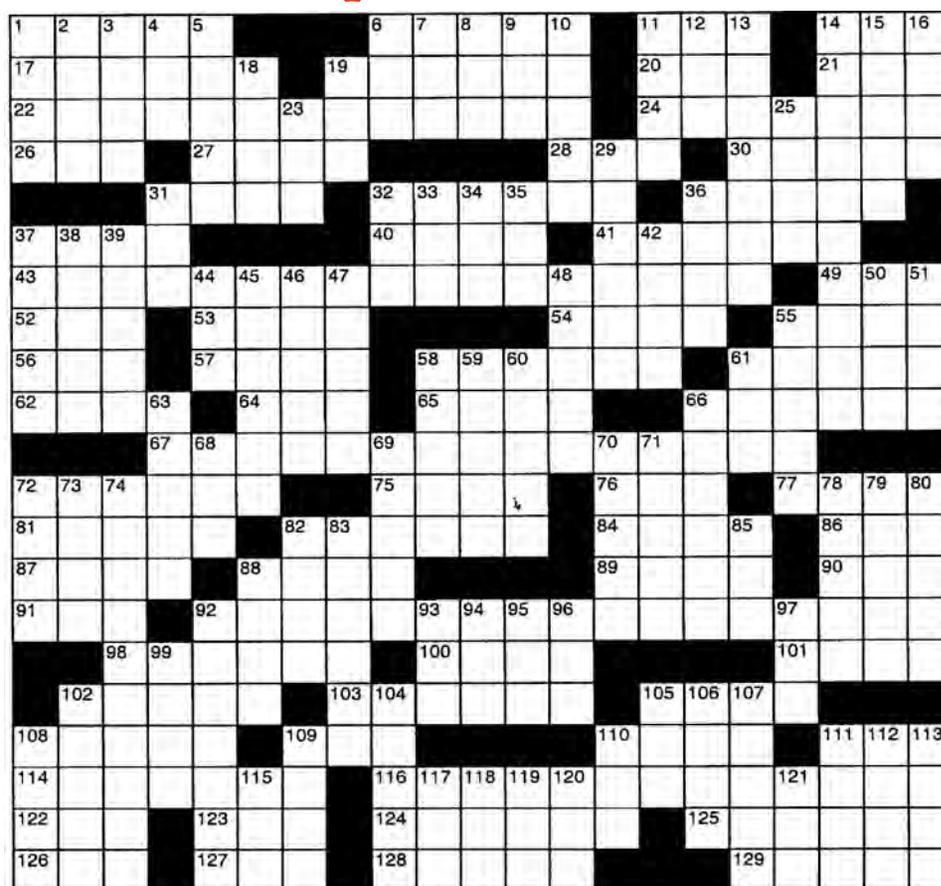
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Apples added to tree; 2. Overall buttons are missing; 3. Cow has more spots; 4. Cloud is missing; 5. Tree and scenery is visible; 6. Boy's right arm is visible.

Super Crossword



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- | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 52 Sault — Marie, MI | 92 Hugh Masekela hit | 3 Richard of "First Knight" | 38 Behind 39 Cake helping | 83 Organic catalyst |
| 1 Patrick of "A Clockwork Orange" | 53 To boot | 98 Speculation | 4 Common street name | 42 Chinese principle | 85 Carpet |
| 6 Fog | 55 Lurid Lugosi | 100 Soccer great | 5 Uplift | 44 Make lace | 88 Football's Aikman |
| 11 Injurious | 56 Gumshoe | 101 Help a hood | 6 Victory sign | 45 Pub vessel | 92 Non-proprietary |
| 14 Hoover or Aswan | 57 Strained | 102 Lustrous | 7 TV ET | 46 Ordinary | 93 "All Things Considered" network |
| 17 Mrs. Marcos | 58 Hogan's home | 103 Ornamental shrub | 8 By means of | 47 "Whole — Love" ('69 song) | 94 Procure |
| 19 "Dreaming of You" singer | 61 Asian capital | 105 Sleep in the woods | 9 Yoko — | 48 New Hampshire's state flower | 95 Under the weather |
| 20 Actress MacGraw | 62 Ormeroy Olympian | 108 Roused | 10 Blows one's stack | 50 — vera | 96 Born |
| 21 Significant years | 64 Gangster's gun | 109 Charge | 11 Military center | 51 Ache | 97 Chat |
| 22 Jim Henson creation | 65 "Rama — Ding Dong" ('61 tune) | 111 Medical grp. | 12 Dryden's "— for Love" | 55 Iraqi city | 99 Walk in the woods |
| 24 Unexpected success | 66 "Emma" author | 114 United | 13 Some engines | 58 Blackboard | 102 Nobel, for one |
| 26 Chemical ending | 67 Self-possessed | 116 John D. MacDonald | 14 Bureau book or this puzzle's theme | 59 Unspoken | 104 It makes rye high |
| 27 — gras | 72 Hutton or Tewes | 122 Bother | 15 Fight site | 60 Cause a chuckle | 105 Pigeon English? |
| 28 When Satie sweltered | 75 Patriot James | 123 Presidential nickname | 16 Actress Helgenberger | 61 Color | 106 — Romeo |
| 30 Street talk | 76 Chum | 124 Singer Percy | 18 Perched on heroine | 63 It needs to be threaded | 107 — cum laude |
| 31 Ballyhoo | 77 Length x width | 125 Mouse or moose | 19 Haggard | 66 Loud | 108 Way over yonder |
| 32 Salad veggie | 81 "Lou Grant" star | 126 King's handle | 23 Bind | 68 "— the ram-parts..." | 109 Soared |
| 36 Zoo attraction | 82 PC key | 127 Crow's comment | 25 Czech river | 69 Maestro Georg | 110 — Guevara |
| 37 "— Don't Preach" ('86 hit) | 84 Constellation component | 128 It may be eaten or drunk | 29 Houston or Ritter | 70 In a stew | 111 Rope fiber |
| 40 Part of Q.E.D. | 86 East ender? | 129 Utilize | 31 Contains | 71 Fire wood? | 112 It should be square |
| 41 Fancy fabric | 87 Catty remark? | 129 Utilize | 32 Auto acronym | 72 It becomes ewe? | 113 Enya's "— Time" |
| 43 Clint Eastwood movie | 88 "Jumbo" set | DOWN | 33 Pound sound | 73 Lost | 115 Alias initials |
| 49 AAA handout | 89 Beige | 1 Ditka or Douglas | 34 June honoree | 74 Nonconformist | 117 Mr. Ziegfeld |
| | 90 Crone | 2 So be it | 35 Japanese statesman | 78 Change for the better | 118 Where goats gambol |
| | 91 Candy quantity | | 36 Nil | 79 Rub out | 119 Pitches |
| | | | 37 It's tossed with sauce | 80 Dread | 120 Cpl.'s superior |
| | | | | 82 TV's "— John" | 121 Tear |

Madera Ranchos Teen Hand-picked to Travel to Italy To Play in Exclusive World Baseball Championship

A Madera Ranchos teenager has been selected to be one of 15 boys from the Fresno area to compete in the World Boys Baseball Championship Tournament in Nettuno, Italy from Aug. 2 to 12.

Incoming Liberty High sophomore Garrett Olsen, 15, was selected not only for his playing ability but his overall character and citizenship as well.

"He has a 4.0 grade point average," said Diane Olsen, Garrett's proud mother, "and he's thought of highly among his coaches."

Recommendations from coaches help in the selection process. Garrett said that two coaches, Aaron Black, head varsity coach at Liberty High School, and Ranchos Middle School coach Jeremy Norris, were instrumental in him pursuing playing baseball at a higher level.

"Coach Black really worked with Garrett and believed he could go somewhere," Olsen said.

Olsen said that Fernando Garcia, president of World Boys Baseball, has been involved with the program since its inception in 1982 and is constantly scouring the San Joaquin Valley for top notch players. It was through his involvement with Liberty High Athletic Director Mike Maz-



Garrett Olsen shows the fine form that helped get him selected to an elite group of young men who will represent the Valley at an international baseball tournament in Italy this summer.

zoni that he became aware of Garrett.

Olsen is excited for the impact this tournament can have on her son and the other youthful players who get to attend. "They'll get to interact as friends and competitors and maybe learn something about each other's cultures," she said.

It was 1982 in Osaka, Japan when the first International Boys League Tournament was held with four teams from Japan and four international teams. Today the league includes teams from Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Taiwan, Cuba, Guatemala, Italy, Puerto Rico, South Korea, Mexico and six from the United States: Alameda, Castro Valley, Fairfield, Fresno, Hawaii and San Diego. To date, the tournaments have been held in Japan nine times, San Diego five times, Fresno and Alameda both four times, Mexico three times and Hawaii, Brazil and Italy once each.

Garrett and his family have been getting money together for the trip to

Italy but they are also looking for any baseball-loving sponsors from the Ranchos who would like to be a part of this historic event. Any individuals, groups or businesses who would like to help Garrett out can call Fernando Garcia at 313-3804 or Diane Olsen at 706-0972.

Samaritan Finds Cash: Is It Yours?

The Madera County Sheriff's Department is looking for the rightful owner of a fair amount of cash found in early June at a filling station in Madera County.

A Good Samaritan who found the cash on the ground at around 9 a.m. on June 9 at the AM/PM Arco Station (located on Golden State Blvd) notified the Sheriff's Department of the discovery.

Only the rightful owner would know the amount and its increments.

The Sheriff's Department will hold on to the cash. If after 90 days the rightful owner fails to claim it the man who found it may submit a request to keep it.

To find out if the cash is yours, call 559-675-7770 and ask to speak with the Department's Property Officer.



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Ranchos Church Providing Outdoor Movies, Summer Events and *More*

Golden Valley Baptist Church, under the direction of its new Pastor, the Rev. David Jones, is launching numerous activities for the entire community. A family movie night began Saturday, June 6 at dusk and will run every Friday through Aug. 28. A new outdoor screen has been constructed to work in concert with a top sound system and high definition projector. A large grassy area appropriate for blankets or lawn chairs is available for viewing. Popcorn and drinks are available for 25 CENTS! Ranchos residents are invited free of charge and there is no solicitation of any kind. Everyone is welcome.

Additional activities include Vacation

Bible School for all the children of the community being held July 20 – 24. Puppet Town Ministries is coming to assist local workers with the evening time VBS. They have a large collection of puppets and scripts with which to give the children an excellent experience. The kids will also love the bounce house and water slide on Friday nights.

Other things being planned are the construction of a softball field, horseshoe pit,

volleyball court and basketball court. Other construction efforts include a new picnic shelter and a playground for small children.

This fall will see the beginning of a "Sports Night."

"With a high definition projector, large indoor screen and surround-sound system, we hope to draw a large contingency of sports fans

to our venue," said Pastor Jones. "These community activities are our way of being a good neighbor to all our friends here in

the Ranchos!"

Pastor Jones explained that the church intends to provide activities for all ages and not just for people in the church. "Our community needs a place for these types of family opportunities and we want to make our facilities available. We need 'man-power' for everything from construction projects to softball organization and I invite the participation of anyone in our community to volunteer!"

A new website is being constructed to be found at www.GoldenValleyChurch.com. Please check the site often for news regarding community and church activities. Prayer requests may also be submitted with assurance of active prayer on a weekly basis.

"Our community needs a place for these types of family opportunities and we want to make our facilities available."

- Pastor David Jones

SPREAD THE NEWS!

Have friends or family who love the Ranchos Independent but live outside the area? Are you moving but you still want to keep in touch with what's happening in the Madera Ranchos?

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Change Can be Good for You

By Eleanore Burchell

Why is change needed? Many times, in order to survive, we have to start a change process. We sometimes need to rid ourselves of old memories, habits and other past traditions. Only when free from past burdens can we take advantage of the present!

The Ranchos/Hills Seniors, Inc. located at 37330 Berkshire Drive will have no July sale. This is due to the 4th of July holiday weekend. Please remember the plant, produce and boutique sections are available Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Thursday evenings between 6 and 9 p.m. We have fresh vegetables ripening and brought in daily so please drop by to check availability. Currently, there are huge onions, zucchini, red and white potatoes and more.

Our Bike-Ride fund raiser was held on Saturday, May 16. It was a great day and very successful thanks to the riders and donors. At this point, we will be holding another one next year. This means if you missed this one, you have another chance next year.

Our center is affiliated with FMAAA (Fresno/Madera Area Agency on Aging) and you are invited to come in and check with Joann about the programs which would help you.

Did you know two nurses from the Madera County Health Department Periodically come to the center to give FREE check-ups? The screenings include personal health history reviews, blood pressure checks and blood sugar checks. Low-cost blood tests are available, nutrition and health education is available and referrals to medical providers and community services, if needed, can be made. Their health screenings of adults, age 50 and OVER, at the center result ONLY when they receive your calls. If you are interested in taking advantage of their services, call Carla or Melody at 675-7893 to make an appointment.

Our members and friends go out to breakfast, lunch or dinner at a different place each month to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries. Our June celebration was held at Huckleberry Restaurant at Champlain and Perrin. Our July celebration is to be held on Saturday, July 18 at 11 a.m. at Black Bear Restaurant, 1209 E. Almond, Madera. This is located near Madera Hospital and next to the Marriott Spring Hills Suites hotel. In August we will go to West Shaw Sizzler in Fresno. Date and time will be announced later. If you want to come just for fun, you are welcome to join us!

If you are new to the area, lonely or have just lost a spouse, we welcome you to come in to see us. We are here for you and located at 37330 Berkshire Drive. Many of our members

have surely experienced your same situation so please call us, 645-4864.

SENIOR THOUGHT OF THE DAY

It is important to have a twinkle in your wrinkle

In the senior years, many need someone to laugh with, so come join our Thursday evening potlucks with games played afterward. There is a lot of fun here and remember laughter is good for your body and soul and being happy does not mean everything is perfect, it means you have decided to see beyond the imperfections!

More Facts and Fun

A nutritionally balanced lunch program Monday through Friday at 11:30 a.m. Suggested price for 60 years and older is \$1.75. Reservations are needed a day in advance so remember to call Joann at 645-4864. We have a growing exercise program being held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. The participants are getting more than just exercise by attending. They have fun and share laughs. There is still room for you and you can attend all three days or just one or two of them. The Line Dancing class is held on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. This is fun and also a great way to exercise. You do not need to be a member to attend these classes. Card BINGO has been changed from Wednesdays at noon to Fridays at noon. We have a large group but there is always room for one more: you! Fill your car with your friends or neighbors as they will enjoy finding new friends here, too. Come in and check these classes out.

Up and Coming Events

Saturday, July 18, 11 a.m., Black Bear Restaurant, 1209 E. Almond, Madera

Weekly Events

Monday through Friday Lunch Program, 11:30 a.m. (Reservations needed, call Joann at 645-4864)

Monday, Exercise Class, 10:15 – 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Pinochle, noon until?

Wednesday, Exercise Class, 10:15 – 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, Line Dancing, 1 p.m.

Thursday, 6 to 9 p.m. Potluck then Hand & Foot, Pinochle or other games (Please bring your own plate and silverware.)

Friday, Exercise Class, 10:15 – 11:30 a.m.

Friday, Card BINGO, noon – 1 p.m.

Please feel free to come in and visit our Senior Center and get acquainted with our members. We welcome you to come and be one of us as our organization offers and promotes social, educational and civic activities in order to provide a better quality of life for all senior citizens. You have received an invitation. Hope to see you soon?

6/09

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6/09

Eating the Colors of the Rainbow

Tips for Making Healthy Eating Fun for Children

Good nutrition is especially important for young children whose bodies and brains are rapidly growing. In fact, research shows that 90 percent of a child's brain development occurs during their first five years, which makes this time especially important to a child's future. Eating a healthy diet helps kids develop healthy skin, bones, teeth and eyes, and gives them the energy they need to be active, learn and play – all of which help them reach their full potential.

With the wide variety of fruits and vegetables available this season, summer is a great time to continue teaching your child about eating healthy. Encourage your child to try new fruits and vegetables by incorporating them into foods he or she already likes. This also provides the opportunity for your child to eat foods that he or she may have not liked before.

Another way to make healthy eating fun is to allow your child to help pick out produce and prepare meals. The Madera County Farmers' Market opened on June 18 and is set up Thursday evenings from 4 to 6:30 p.m. at Courthouse Park. The Farmers' Market is a great place for children to be involved in choosing healthy foods for the family.

Kids need fruits and vegetables

For a healthy diet, children should eat two servings of fruits and three servings of vegetables each day. However, a 2007 survey reported in U.S. News and World Report found that 75 percent of preschoolers weren't getting these recommended daily servings.

According to the Central California Regional Obesity Prevention Program (CCROPP), nearly two-thirds of Central Valley residents are overweight or obese. Teaching your child to eat healthy is more important than ever – and by doing so, you can help him or her avoid being at risk for heart disease and Type 2 diabetes later in life. While sometimes it can be difficult to get kids to eat their fruits and vegetables, helping your child overcome food dislikes is worth the effort.

Guide to eating colorfully

To make eating fruits and vegetables fun for your children, First 5

Madera recommends encouraging your family to "eat the colors of the rainbow." By focusing on colorful foods, kids can have fun with nutrition.

Fruits and vegetables contain many vitamins and minerals that keep growing kids strong and healthy, and provide a great source of fiber to aid digestive health.

Red

Red foods such as tomatoes, bell peppers and watermelon promote the health of children's cardiovascular systems, which includes their hearts and lungs, and helps them to be fit and active.

Orange

Foods like carrots, oranges and apricots with a bright orange hue also have a lot of vitamins that can help children develop healthy eyes, preventing future vision problems.

Yellow

Like many red and orange foods, yellow fruits and vegetables like summer squash, lemons, corn and bananas contain vitamins essential to the healthy development and functioning of children's muscles and skin.

Green

Green foods like spinach, broccoli and asparagus help kids build strong, healthy bones.

Blue

Like other brightly colored foods, the only blue food – blueberries – are high in antioxidants that help boost children's immune systems and prevent illness.

Purple

Purple foods like eggplant, purple cabbage, raisins and grapes provide nutrients that may help prevent diabetes and infections in children.

Teaching healthy eating

First 5 Madera encourages all families to incorporate more colors, and consequently more nutrients, into their diets. For more information on eating healthy and kids' nutritional needs, call First 5 Madera County's Family Resource Center at (559) 661-5155. To order a free copy of First 5 California's Yummy for Your Tummy cookbook, which features quick, healthy and affordable recipes developed by nutritionist Chef LaLa, call (800) KIDS-025.



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Construction

New construction, remodels, room additions, barns and patios. **Call 559-970-4476 or 559-645-4033.**

For Rent

For Rent - FRESNO HOME - near St. Agnes and CSUF. 3BR/2BA 1,500 sq. ft. **COMPLETELY RENOVATED.** New appliances, tilework, RV parking. Corner lot w/yard service. New carpets, paint. \$1,300 rent plus security deposit. **Call 213-2275.**

For Rent - 4BR/2BA 2,200 sq. ft. home on Ave. 12. \$1,500 per month. **Call 999-9005.**

For Rent - Horse Property - 3BR/2 BA on 10 acres. # stall horse barn. \$2,100 per month. **Call 999-9005.**

For Sale

For Sale - King PILLOWTOP Mattress/Box, New-Never opened, Cost \$900 Sacrifice \$350. **Call 277-2511.**

For Sale - Bedroom Set - Solid Cherrywood! Sleigh Bed, Nightstand, Dresser, Chest. Thomasville Quality! Cost \$8K Sacrifice \$1,750. New In Boxes! **Call 230-0486.**

For Sale - Pool Table - Solid Wood, 1" Slate, Leather Pockets, Brand New With Extras. Cost \$5K Sacrifice \$1,375. Can Deliver. **Call 447-5066.**

For Sale - DINING ROOM SET - Beau-

tiful Solid Cherrywood, double Pedestal Table W/2 leaves, 6 chairs, China Cabinet With Touch Lighting. Never Used. Cost \$8K Sacrifice \$1,775. Matching Buffet \$450. **Call 275-8813.**

For Sale - All New Queen PILLOW-TOP Mattress/Box, Still in Package. Cost \$700 Sacrifice \$225. **Call 438-0248.**

Found

Collapsible canvas lawn chair left in Chamber of Commerce/Ranchos Independent Office after Flatlanders Day Parade. **Come in and identify or it's off to Salvation Army.**

CD Briefcase - Rolling Hills Area. **Call to identify - 559-824-0979.**

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Tractor work, house pads, lot leveling, driveways, trenching, concrete work and underground utilities installed. **Call 559-970-4476 or 559-645-4033.**

Trash Hauling

Trash Hauling - Yard cleanup, Lawn mowing, Sprinkler repair. **Call Alex at 559-479-1402.**

Wanted

Wanted - Parts from riding mower, or complete not-running riding mower. **Call Chet at 903-1047.**

Window Cleaning Services

Window cleaning special. Most windows \$5 inside/out. Screen, track and sills included. Hard water stain and cobweb removal available. Fully insured. **Call Nick at 285-1723. Free estimates.**

**TO ADVERTISE
CALL 645-0634**

GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

	-		x		20
+		x		+	
	x		-		13
x		+		+	
	x		+		16
13		15		20	

1 2 3 5 6 7 7 8 9

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SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

3			2		8			
	2		4	9				
	6	5	9					4
	7		1			6		
9			5				3	1
	5				6	8		
		8	3			1		
	3			4				7
2				5	1		9	

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PG&E vs The Ranchos

PG&E is getting closer to selecting a path for their
high-power transmission lines
and the Madera Ranchos is still a **PRIME LOCATION**
for placement of the lines.

Look in Today's
Ranchos Independent

for a **PG&E Survey** where you can share
your thoughts and then **SIGN A LETTER** to tell
the Power Company just how you feel.

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